

CLAIMS

1. A fuel cell for supplying electric power to an electric device including a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation, comprising:
an electrolyte;
a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte; and
a fuel-supply section being configured so as to supply a fuel absorbing the heat of the heat-producing section to the fuel electrode.

2. A fuel cell for supplying electric power to an electric device including a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation, comprising:
an electrolyte;
a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte; and
a fuel-supply section being so configured as to remove the heat of the heat-producing section by the action of a fuel to be supplied to the fuel electrode.

3. The fuel cell according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the fuel is liquid at ordinary temperature.

4. The fuel cell according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which is a direct fuel cell in which the fuel is directly supplied to the fuel electrode.

5. The fuel cell according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the fuel-supply section comprises a flow-rate-control section for controlling the flow rate of the fuel to be supplied to the fuel electrode according to the heat production level of the heat-producing section.

6. An electric device using a fuel cell as an electric power source and comprising:

the fuel cell and a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation of the electric device, the fuel cell comprising an electrolyte, and a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte,

wherein the fuel cell further comprises a fuel-supply section being so configured as to supply a fuel absorbing the heat of the heat-producing section to the fuel electrode.

7. An electric device using a fuel cell as an electric power source and comprising:

the fuel cell and a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation of the electric device, the fuel cell comprising an electrolyte, and a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte,

wherein the fuel cell further comprises a fuel-supply section being so configured as to remove the heat of the heat-producing section by the action of a fuel to be supplied to the fuel electrode.

8. The electric device according to claim 6 or 7, further comprising a heat-dissipating section being so configured as to dissipate the heat of the heat-producing section,

wherein the fuel-supply section comprises a channel for the fuel being arranged in the heat-dissipating section.

9. The electric device according to any one of claims 6 to 8,

wherein the heat-producing section is a CPU, and

wherein the fuel-supply section is so configured as to transfer the heat of the CPU to the fuel.

10. The electric device according to any one of 6 to 9, further comprising a display,

wherein the fuel electrode is arranged on the back of the display.

11. The electric device according to any one of claims 6 to 10, which is portable.

12. A portable computer having a fuel cell as an electric power source and comprising:

a first cabinet having a keyboard section on its surface and holding an

electronic circuit including a CPU; and

a second cabinet being pivotably mounted to the first cabinet and including a display being arranged so as to face the keyboard section,

wherein the fuel cell comprises an electrolyte; a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte; and a fuel-supply section being so configured as to supply a fuel absorbing the heat of the CPU to the fuel electrode.

13. A portable computer having a fuel cell as an electric power source and comprising:

a first cabinet having a keyboard section on its surface and holding an electronic circuit including a CPU; and

a second cabinet being pivotably mounted to the first cabinet and including a display being arranged so as to face the keyboard section,

wherein the fuel cell comprises an electrolyte; a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode sandwiching the electrolyte; and a fuel-supply section being so configured as to remove the heat of the CPU by the action of a fuel to be supplied to the fuel electrode.

14. The portable computer according to claim 12 or 13, further comprising a heat-dissipating section being so configured as to dissipate the heat of the CPU, wherein the fuel-supply section includes a channel for the fuel being arranged in the heat-dissipating section.

15. The portable computer according to any one of claims 12 to 14, further comprising a fuel tank for holding the fuel, wherein the fuel tank is arranged at such a position as to absorb the heat of the CPU.

16. A method for driving a fuel cell, comprising the step of cooling a heat-producing section of an electric device with a fuel, the electric device having a fuel cell as an electric power source, and the fuel being supplied to the fuel cell.

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17. A method for driving a fuel cell, comprising the step of cooling an overheating heat-producing section of an electric device with a fuel, the electric device having a fuel cell as an electric power source, and the fuel being supplied to the fuel cell.

18. A method for driving a fuel cell for supplying electric power to an electric device, comprising the step of supplying a fuel to the fuel cell, the fuel absorbing heat of a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation of the electric device.

19. A method for driving a fuel cell for supplying electric power to an electric device, comprising the steps of allowing a fuel to be supplied to the fuel cell to absorb heat of a heat-producing section which produces heat during operation of the electric device to thereby remove the heat of the heat-producing section, and subsequently supplying the fuel to the fuel cell.

20. A fuel cell system comprising a fuel cell main body and a fuel tank for supplying a fuel to the fuel cell main body, wherein at least one of the fuel cell main body and the fuel tank is being so configured as to come into contact with a heat-producing member which produces heat.